

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 EB-08 SP-02 L-03 /062 W

-----089260 230748Z /14

R 222005Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3978

UNCLAS MADRID 03160

FOR AID/SER/ASHA

E.O. 11652 N.A.

TAGS: SWEL SP

SUBJECT: AMERICAN HOSPITAL ESTEPONA PROJECT

1. AMERICAN CONSUL SEVILLE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AMERICAN GROUP IN THE COSTA DEL SOL WHICH HAS BEEN PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING OF A HOSPITAL AT ESTEPONA IS INCREASING ITS ACTIVITIES, AND THAT THERE ARE SOMEWHAT EXTRAVAGANT ASSERTIONS AS TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH AID/ASHA IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT.

2. CONSUL MET WITH A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN CLUB OF THE COSTA DEL SOL LAST WEEK, A MAN WHO HAS EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THE PROJECT IS WELL MANAGED AND A CONCERN THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROMOTERS CHARLES WIESNER AND PAUL REILLY MIGHT BE OVERSTATING AID/ASHA'S COMMITMENTS. THE VISITOR STATED THAT THEY HAD TOLD HIM RECENTLY THAT AID/ASHA DIRECTOR CONSTANTINO HAD MADE THEM A QUOTE FAIRLY FIRM UNQUOTE PROMISE THAT IF THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY COSTA DEL SOL OF THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN ESTEPONA RAISES \$150 THOUSAND BY NEXT SEPTEMBER, AID WILL INCLUDE A LINE ITEM OF \$450 THOUSAND IN ITS BUDGET, TO BE EARMARKED FOR AN UNCLASSIFIED

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ENGINEERING STUDY. THIS SO-CALLED PROMISE IS BEING USED BY THEM AS THE BASIS FOR DEMONSTRATING TO THE WELL-TO-DO COMMUNITY IN THE COSTA DEL SOL THAT THINGS ARE MOVING FORWARD AND FOR SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE \$150 THOUSAND FUND.

3. THE CONSUL POINTED OUT TO HIS VISITOR THAT THE

INFORMATION SO FAR PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY BY ASHA DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM TO THINK THAT AID COMMITMENTS WERE ALL THAT FIRM AND THAT HE HAD SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE IMPRESSION BEING GIVEN BY THE PROMOTERS TO SPANISH AUTHORITIES THAT IT WAS ASSURED.

4. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE AN URGENT UPDATE OF ASHA'S POSITION ON THE PROJECT, FURTHER TO MR. CONSTANTINO'S LETTER OF OCTOBER 18, 1977, TO THE SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE.

5. IT IS REQUESTED THAT NO DIRECT COMMUNICATION BE SENT BY AID/ASHA TO THE PROMOTERS OF THE HOSPITAL PROJECT AND THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS BE PASSED THROUGH THE EMBASSY SO THAT WE CAN KEEP CURRENTLY INFORMED ON THE STATE OF PLAY. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: SWEL, SP
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